



## Try to fallow the same fields three years in a row

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*When the same field is fallowed several years in a row, the resulting tall, dense vegetation provides food, cover, and nesting habitat for water-associated birds, upland birds, songbirds, birds of prey, and small mammals. Sandhill cranes here seek pockets of water.*

### What to do:

If it's compatible with your crop rotation patterns and your production adjustment program, try to allow the same set-aside field to remain uncropped for three years. This allows ample time for reliable food, cover, and nesting habitat to become established for wildlife. If you can tolerate a mixture of weeds and perennial grasses, you don't need to plant anything. Or you can plant a mixture of wheat, fescue or perennial rye, and vetch seeds to provide diverse plants that serve as food, nesting habitat, and cover of varying heights.

Check with the regulatory agencies listed below if you have questions or concerns about attracting endangered species to these fields.

**Regulatory agencies to contact:**  
DFG, USFWS.

### Benefits:

- Offers excellent cover, food, and nesting habitat for waterfowl, pheasants, songbirds, birds of prey, small mammals, and their offspring.

- Provides increasing wildlife benefits each year that the fields are out of production. Mallards tend to return each year to the same nesting areas and the number of nesting ducks usually increases over time if the habitat remains stable.

- Can increase organic matter in soil, which improves water infiltration, moisture retention, and overall soil fertility.

- Can add nitrogen to the soil, thereby reducing fertilizer needs and associated costs.

- Decreases soil erosion and filters runoff water to improve water quality.

- Can greatly reduce the cost of cleaning out sumps that fill with soil from water erosion.